

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Previously Presented)** A lancing device comprising:

(a) a lancet, said lancet having a sharpened tip, and

(b) a torsion spring coupled to said lancet said torsion spring comprising,

(i) a closed inner ring,

(ii) a closed middle ring concentrically configured around said inner ring,

(iii) a closed outer ring concentrically configured around said middle ring,

(iv) a first spring arm connecting said middle ring to said outer ring, and (v) a second spring arm connecting said inner ring to said middle ring,

wherein each of said first and second spring arms is independently transformable between an energized state and a de-energized state.

8. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 7 wherein said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring along an arcuate path.

9. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 8 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring along an arcuate path.

10. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 9 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring in the opposite direction in which said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Currently Amended)** The lancing device of ~~claim 11~~ **claim 7** further comprising a housing shaped to define an interior cavity and an opening in communication with said interior cavity.

13. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 12 wherein said lancet is adapted for movement between a retracted position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned within the interior cavity of said housing and an extended position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned outside of the interior cavity of said housing.

14. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 13 wherein said lancet is disposed in its retracted position when each of said first and second spring arms is in its de-energized state.

15. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 14 wherein, with said second spring arm maintained in its energized state, transformation of said first spring arm from its energized state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its retracted position to its extended position.

16. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 15 wherein, with said first spring arm maintained in its de-energized state, transformation of said second spring arm from its energized state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its extended position to its retracted position.

17. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 7 wherein the inner ring of said torsion spring is fixedly coupled to said housing.

18. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 17 further comprising: (a) a lancet holder for holding said lancet, said lancet holder being fixedly coupled to the outer ring of said torsion spring, and (b) a latch for selectively engaging said lancet holder.

19. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 18 further comprising: (a) a spring holder fixedly coupled to the middle ring of said torsion spring, and (b) a ratchet for selectively engaging said spring holder.

20. **(Original)** The lancing device of claim 19 further comprising a mechanism fixedly coupled to said spring holder for selectively contacting said latch.

21.-37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Previously Presented)** A lancing device comprising:

(a) a lancet, said lancet having a sharpened tip, and

(b) a torsion spring coupled to said lancet said torsion spring comprising,

(i) a closed inner ring,

(ii) a closed middle ring concentrically configured around said inner ring,

(iii) a closed outer ring concentrically configured around said middle ring,

(iv) a first spring arm connecting said middle ring to said outer ring, and (v) a second spring arm connecting said inner ring to said middle ring,

wherein, with said second spring arm maintained in its energized state, transformation of said first spring arm from its energized state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its retracted position to its extended position.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 38 wherein said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring along an arcuate path.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 39 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring along an arcuate path.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 40 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring in the opposite direction in which said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 38 wherein each of said first and second spring arms is independently transformable between an energized state and a de-energized state.

43. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 42 further comprising a housing shaped to define an interior cavity and an opening in communication with said interior cavity.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 43 wherein said lancet is adapted for movement between a retracted position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned within the interior cavity of said housing and an extended position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned outside of the interior cavity of said housing.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 43 wherein said lancet is disposed in its retracted position when each of said first and second spring arms is in its de-energized state.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 38 wherein, with said first spring arm maintained in its de-energized state, transformation of said second spring arm from its energized state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its extended position to its retracted position.

47. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 38 wherein the inner ring of said torsion spring is fixedly coupled to said housing.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 47 further comprising: (a) a lancet holder for holding said lancet, said lancet holder being fixedly coupled to the outer ring of said torsion spring, and (b) a latch for selectively engaging said lancet holder.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 48 further comprising: (a) a spring holder fixedly coupled to the middle ring of said torsion spring, and (b) a ratchet for selectively engaging said spring holder.

50. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 49 further comprising a mechanism fixedly coupled to said spring holder for selectively contacting said latch.

51. **(Previously Presented)** A lancing device comprising:

(a) a lancet, said lancet having a sharpened tip,

(b) a torsion spring coupled to said lancet said torsion spring comprising,

(i) a closed inner ring,

(ii) a closed middle ring concentrically configured around said inner ring,

(iii) a closed outer ring concentrically configured around said middle ring,

(iv) a first spring arm connecting said middle ring to said outer ring, and (v) a second spring arm connecting said inner ring to said middle ring,

(c) a spring holder fixedly coupled to the middle ring of said torsion spring, and

(d) a ratchet for selectively engaging said spring holder.

52. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 51 wherein said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring along an arcuate path.

53. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 52 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring along an arcuate path.

54. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 53 wherein said second spring arm extends from said inner ring to said middle ring in the opposite direction in which said first spring arm extends from said middle ring to said outer ring.

55. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 51 wherein each of said first and second spring arms is independently transformable between an energized state and a de-energized state.

56. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 55 further comprising a housing shaped to define an interior cavity and an opening in communication with said interior cavity.

57. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 56 wherein said lancet is adapted for movement between a retracted position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned within the interior cavity of said housing and an extended position in which the sharpened tip of said lancet is positioned outside of the interior cavity of said housing.

58. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 57 wherein said lancet is disposed in its retracted position when each of said first and second spring arms is in its de-energized state.

59. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 58 wherein, with said second spring arm maintained in its energized state, transformation of said first spring arm from its energized state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its retracted position to its extended position.

60. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 59 wherein, with said first spring arm maintained in its de-energized state, transformation of said second spring arm from its energized

state to its de-energized state serves to drive said lancet from its extended position to its retracted position.

61. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 51 wherein the inner ring of said torsion spring is fixedly coupled to said housing.

62. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 61 further comprising: (a) a lancet holder for holding said lancet, said lancet holder being fixedly coupled to the outer ring of said torsion spring, and (b) a latch for selectively engaging said lancet holder.

63. **(Previously Presented)** The lancing device of claim 51 further comprising a mechanism fixedly coupled to said spring holder for selectively contacting said latch.